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Department of Corrections
Public Safety & Trust

Newsletter

March 1999

Message from the Director

Department Still Advocating for Public Safety and Victim Rights

The 56th Legislature has just passed the halfway point of this session. All nine department bills are alive and are now before the opposite house. The budget hearing process is complete in the House and the budget bill will move to House floor debate this week.

At this point the Legislature has firmly supported the pre-release expansion; however, the following are some key budget issues which remain unresolved:

- Probation and Parole Staffing - 10 additional regular officers have been approved, but this will not keep up with workload growth let alone drive caseloads down.
- Pine Hills New Units Staffing - 13 new positions have been added in FY 2001, but 19 positions are needed just to staff the control center and new units.
- Juvenile Placement Funding - This has actually been reduced below the 1998 base level.
- Contract Bed Funding - This has been reduced by 12% for men and 10% for women.
- MSP Staffing - 18 positions have been removed from the base level.
- The Department's base budget as well as present law and new proposal requests were cut by 1% (excluding contract bed and Board of Pardons and Parole funding.)
- MSP Reception Unit - This project was taken out of the long range building plan.

Maintaining a consistent approach to funding a balanced corrections system continues to be a difficult issue. The current level of funding approved by the House Appropriations Committee is $9 million below the executive request.

The tendency to look for "silver bullet" solutions and the reluctance to adequately fund corrections may be understandable, but perhaps the following quote from the past underscores the need for a steady, efficient approach.

A state the size of Montana should need no more than a 480-man prison to meet its correctional needs, especially as more community corrections alternatives are made available to the judges. The Master Plan survey of judges indicates they would use community corrections alternatives if they were available.

Corrections Master Plan 1980-85

Yet, today, MSP houses about 1,300 male inmates. So, not coming to terms with an effective level of corrections funding and construction in the past has put us into a deficit. Recently, we have made steady progress back to a corrections system which can actually carry out the sentences designed to impose society's penalties and promote a reduced risk of crime in our communities.

Although much work lies ahead of us, the Department plans to continue to emphasize the interests of crime victims and public safety as the final decisions are made by the 56th Legislature.

Butte Prerelease Gets Accredited

By Mike Cronin,
Public Information Officer

The Butte Pre-release Center has joined the ranks of the elite in Montana by becoming accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA). The center, operated by Community Counseling & Correctional Services, becomes the second Montana facility to achieve accreditation.

The Commission on Accreditation for Corrections presented the award at the ACA winter meeting January 15-19, 1999, in Nashville.

The program is a professional peer review process based on national standards and developed by national leaders from the fields of corrections, law, architecture, medical care and other groups interested in sound correctional practice.

Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility became accredited in 1998. The award is effective for three years.

Legislative Information

Legislative Information Office 444-4800
Legislative Messages by phone
444-4800
Legislative Messages by fax
1-900-225-1600
($0.45 per minute)
Montana State Bulletin Board System
Helena callers 444-5648
Within Montana 1-800-962-1729
E-mail Addresses
House - house@state.mt.us
Senate - senate@state.mt.us

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Revised March 15, 1999

HB/S B NO.	SPONSORS	DESCRIPTION OF BILL	STATUS
SB 20	Sen. Debbie Shea	Staff member may serve as a board member to conduct hearings.	(S) Scheduled for 3rd Reading 03/15/1999 (S) 2nd Reading CC Rpt Adopted 03/13/1999 * 47-0* (S) Scheduled for 2nd Reading 03/13/1999
HB 65	Rep. Chris Ahner Sen. Sue Bartlett	An act extending the intervention in delinquency pilot program	(S) Hearing 03/05/1999 (S) Judiciary @ 9:00 a.m. in Room 325
SB 22	Sen. Arnie Mohl Rep. Red Menahan	Probation and Parole and Corrections Officer POST certification.	(H) Tabled in Committee 03/03/1999 (H) Judiciary
HB 59	Rep. Doug Mood	An act to allow the court to designate an offender a sexual offender if the court finds at the time of conviction that the person committed the offense as a result of sexual compulsion or for purposes of sexual gratification	(S) Hearing 03/25/1999 (S) Judiciary @ 9:00 a.m. in Room 325
SB 33	Sen. Fred Thomas Rep. Edith Clark	An act clarifying federal inmates cannot be housed in a state prison.	(H) Hearing 03/09/1999 (H) Judiciary @ 8:00 a.m. in Room 312-1
HB 115	Rep. Dan McGee Sen. Chris Christiaens	An act to provide additional alternatives for the sentencing and supervision of criminal offenders	(S) Hearing 03/12/1999 (S) Judiciary @ 9:00 a.m. in Room 325
HB 54	Rep. Red Menahan Sen. Tom Beck	An act making it a crime for a prisoner to assault another person with bodily fluids.	(S) Hearing 03/25/1999 (S) Judiciary @ 9:00 a.m. in Room 325
HB 53	Rep. Bob Clark Sen. Mack Cole	An act specifying that the coroner shall pronounce the death of a defendant at an execution	(S) Hearing 03/09/1999 (S) Judiciary @ 9:00 a.m. in Room 405
SB 54	Sen. Mike Halligan Rep. Joan Hurdle	An act granting greater authority to district courts, creating criminally convicted youth and setting emergency capacities at youth facilities.	(S) Scheduled for 2nd Reading 03/15/1999 (H) Returned to Senate with Amendments 03/12/1999 (H) 3rd Reading Concurred 03/12/1999 *84-16*
SB 32	Sen. Duane Grimes Rep. Kim Gillan	An act providing that consent of a victim of sexual assault or sexual intercourse without consent is ineffective if the victim is incarcerated.	(H) Signed by Speaker 03/13/1999 (S) Signed by President 03/12/1999

MSP Emergency Drills and Exercises

By Linda Moodry, MSP Public Information Officer

Montana State Prison spokesperson Linda Moodry announced that in accordance with Department of Corrections policy, the Montana State Prison's Exercise Design Team will be developing and preparing for ongoing prison emergency preparedness drills. The Exercise Design Team has been working on exercises since May of 1998. The team has worked on and reviewed a portion of the MSP Emergency Preparedness after conducting a table top exercise on July 15, 1998. This was followed by a drill on Thursday, November 19, 1998, at 6:30 p.m. when second shift staff responded to an emergency drill, locked the institution down and evaluated the inmate count and staff verification system.

The emergency preparedness exercise system is composed of plan reviews, inspections/audits, tabletop exercise, drills, functional exercises and full scale exercises. The exercise design team has selected drills to test the emergency system at the Deer Lodge facility as the next step in the system review.

During the next three months, emergency siren lockdown and count drills will be conducted to test specific areas response and handling of the emergency drill situation. Exercise evaluators will be assigned to various areas around the facility to review emergency response to the siren. These individuals are Department of Corrections personnel as well as outside evaluators. They will work through the command post and are a critical part of the success of our emergency preparedness program. Their evaluations will be used to determine how well our system works and to make changes in the manuals and checklists.

Montana State Prison will update the community and keep them apprised of our progress. Questions concerning the Exercise Design Team should be addressed to members of this team. Members are: Mike Mahoney; Tim Wood; Don May; Jerry Johnson; Bob Jones; Barry Malcom; Art Garrison; Linda Moodry; Tony Blastek; Joe Mihelic; Dusty Skocilich; Ross Swanson and Chris Christensen.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance from staff and evaluators with this process.

Commitment and Placement of Juvenile Sex Offenders

By John Paradis, Unit Manager Juvenile Residential Placement Unit

The Department of Corrections is dedicated to providing appropriate, cost effective, and quality care for offenders committed to the Department in settings that address community safety issues as well as the treatment needs of the offender. Services for adjudicated sex offenders can be provided in a variety of settings, out-patient and in-patient, both secure and non-secure. It is the philosophy of the Department that these services should be provided within the State of Montana whenever possible.

The difficult and complex decision for a placement recommendation to the Youth Court and to the Department must take into consideration a variety of factors. Some of those factors are: the recommendation of the MSOTA assessment for the type and level of treatment; the safety of the community; the age and sophistication of the offender; the availability of appropriate resources; the cost per day; and the projected discharge plan for the offender upon treatment completion.

Each case is unique and individual and should be looked at relative to matching the placement with the provider. It is not the intent of the Department to second guess the recommendations of referring officers, but to assist them in the process by which those recommendations are made and reviewed. If we do so, we maximize the use of our in-state resources and greatly reduce the number of Montana youth placed in out-of-state facilities and programs.

There are currently three programs operating in Montana that provide in-patient juvenile sex offender treatment. Their current combined total bed space can provide for 58 offenders in treatment. Each of these programs offers unique services that may be appropriate for individuals who come to the attention of the youth court as offenders.

Employee Happenings

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

New Employees

Barbara Mueske	Director of Nursing	2/16/99
Scott Campbell	IPPO, MSP	3/29/99

Job Transfers

Mike Strutzel	Trainer, Training Bureau	1/11/99
Don May	Trainer, Training Bureau	1/18/99
Theresa Gallagher	Accountant, ASD	2/3/99
John Williams	P&P Officer II, Billings	3/1/99
Chad Field	Juvenile PO, Billings	3/1/99
John Boyd	P&P Officer, Billings	3/8/99
Rolanda Petrie	Transition Center, Billings	3/1/99
Earlene Sayne	Admin. Support, PSD	3/1/99
Mike Webster	Correc Trmt Spec, Billings	3/1/99
Lindy Proue	Accounting Technician	3/17/99
Doreen Boyer	Budget Officer, ASD	3/29/99

RIVERSIDE YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

New Employees

David Wagner	Relief Correc Counselor	12/29/98
Sandra Steel	Correctional Counselor	1/9/99

PINE HILLS YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

New Employees

Bobby Joe Stabio	Correctional Officer/ Shift Supervisor	2/10/99
Gregory A. Maine	Correctional Officer	2/22/99

DOC Populations

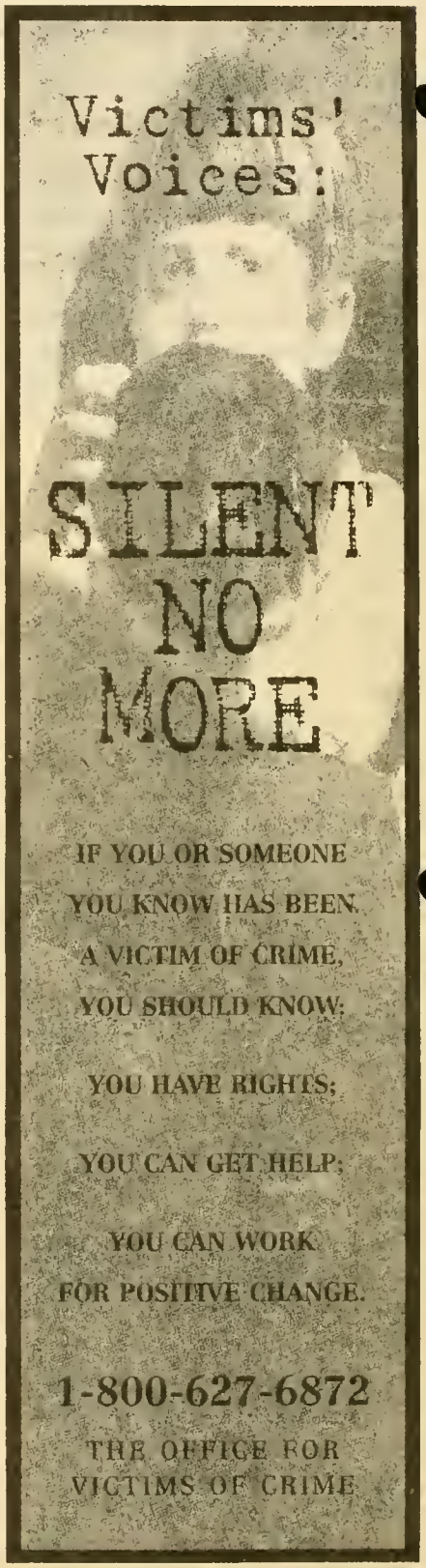
*ADP

MSP	1,254
MSP Co Jail Hold, Regional Jails & Out-of-State	698
Treasure State Correctional Training Center	34
Montana Women's Prison	71
MWP County Jail Hold & New Mexico	50
Pre-release Program (male)	352.26
Pre-release Program (female)	89.0
Riverside Youth Correctional Facility	17
Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility	83
Aspen	47
Evaluation/Transition Programs	20.6

*AMC

Intensive Supervision	192
Probation and Parole	5,789

The above information reflects the *ADP (Average Daily Population for the Month) as of January 1999 and the *AMC (Active Monthly Caseload) as of January 1999. The Department calculates the Average Daily Population based on total custody days divided by the number of days in the period.



Members of the Legislature take a close look at the execution chamber at MSP.

Juvenile Task Force has First Meeting

By Cindy McKenzie, Riverside Youth Correctional Facility

As a result of the Juvenile "Family" meeting held in Miles City last June, Director Day requested a juvenile task force be formed. The members of the task force are Loreen Barnaby, regional administrator; John Williams and Dawn Handa, juvenile parole officers; Cass Cole, Jeff Lee and Karen Duncan, Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility; Cindy McKenzie, Riverside Youth Correctional Facility; and Chris Christensen, organizational development officer.

The Task Force met for the first time on December 15, 1998, in Billings at the Montana Women's Prison. The agenda for that meeting included discussion of the role of the Juvenile Task Force, including how long the appointments to the task force were to continue, organizing the task force's working style, and assigning tasks for the next meeting.

Chris Christensen acted as the facilitator. He presented six issues that, as a result of the large meeting held in June and subsequent Juvenile Management Team meetings, appear to be the most pressing items the Department of Corrections needs to address to improve supervision and case management of juveniles. These six issues are as follows:

1) Identifying the management gaps,
2) Combined case planning,
3) Mutual forms,
4) Policy development,
5) Field investigations, and
6) Schedule another Juvenile "Family" meeting in May or June 1999.

The CAPS system was also discussed as part of a larger discussion of communication issues. This discussion also made everyone aware that not all case managers at Pine Hills had ready access to ZIP mail. The Juvenile Task Force is to make recommendations to address these issues and present them to Director Day and the Juvenile Management Team.

All committee members expressed a desire to represent their co-workers in their working units and to work together to improve the communications and working relationships throughout the juvenile "family." The main purpose of this article is to let all Department of Corrections personnel know what is being done, and to let all know who is representing the various working units in case someone has questions or concerns they would like addressed.

Please feel free to call or write any one of us. The next meeting of the Juvenile Task Force is scheduled for April 8, 1999, at the Montana Women's Prison.

Region V Meeting

By Gene Gemignani, Region V Administrator

On December 8 & 9, 1999, a regional meeting was held at the Kwataqnuk Resort in Polson for Region V Probation & Parole. The meeting was attended by officers and support staff out of Thompson Falls, Libby, Polson and Kalispell.

The first day was comprised of training put on by Winnie Ore & Beth Strandberg. Day two began with Use of Force and Response Continuum Training put on by Flathead County Sheriff Deputy Brad Stahlberg. This was followed with a presentation on the Missoula Pre-Release Center by center director, Sue Wilkins. The afternoon saw the arrival of DOC Director Rick Day and Bureau Chief Mary Fay. Discussion of Department legislation and regional issues closed the day.

MDOC Staff Development & Training Calendar

Revised March 15, 1999

The following 1999 Training Calendar is not exhaustive; additional courses will be scheduled periodically throughout the year. Facility/Program staff wishing to attend a training session may register by submitting a Training Request Form(see policy DOC 1.4.4) or by having their supervisor call the Training Center 1-406-846-1320 ext. 2443 or Winnie Ore, Staff Development and Training Bureau Manager 1-406-444-7795.

Date	Course	Location	Hours
3/20-21	Windows 95 0800-1600 hours	MCC - Miles City	16
3/20-21	Basic Computer 1600-2000 hours	MCC - Miles City	8
3/22	Special Education (2hrs) & Ethics (6hrs) 0700-1500 hours	PHYCF - Miles City	8
3/22	PPCT Refresher	MWP	2
3/22-23	Word 97 0800-1600 hours	MCC - Miles City	16
3/22-23	Windows 95 Beginner 1600-2000 hours	MCC - Miles City	8
3/22-24	Leadership & Influence	MWP	20
3/22-4/9	CO Site Basic (MSP CO)	MSP	120
3/24-25	Excel 97 (*Spreadsheets*) 0800-1600 hours	MCC - Miles City	16
3/24-25	Word 97 Beginner (*Word Processing*) 1600-2000 hours	MCC - Miles City	8
3/24-26	Emergency Preparedness Initial	Natl Guard Armory - Deer Lodge	24
3/25	PPCT Refresher	MWP	2
3/25	NVCI Annual Refresher 0700-1100 hours	PHYCF - Miles City	4
3/25	Initial PPCT 1100-1200 1230-1500 hours	PHYCF - Miles City	4
3/26	Initial PPCT 0700-1100 hours	PHYCF - Miles City	4
3/26	Initial Cell Extraction 1100-1200 1230-1500 hours	PHYCF - Miles City	4
3/26-27	Computer Training As Needed Windows 95/Word 97/Excel 97 0800-1600 hours	MCC - Miles City	16

Date	Course	Location	Hours
3/26-27	Excel 97 Beginner (*Spreadsheets)* 1600-2000 hours	MCC - Miles City	8
3/28	Windows 95 Advanced 0800-1600 hours	MCC - Miles City	8
3/30	Emergency Preparedness Initial	Natl Guard Armory - Deer Lodge	8
3/30-31	Windows 95	Computer Lab - MSP	16
3/30-31 & 4/1	Interpersonal Communication $2.25/person	Conley Lake Lodge-MSP	24
4/6-8	Interpersonal Communication with Offenders $2.25/person	MWP	24
4/6-8	Interpersonal Communication $2.25/person	Natl Guard Armory - Deer Lodge	24
4/7	Video Conference - Personnel Litigation, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Discipline & Conflict Resolution	MSP - Low Support Education Bldg	2
4/7-8	Windows 95	Computer Lab - MSP	16
4/12	Volunteer/Contractor Training	Ranch 1 - MSP	4
4/12-13	Word 97 (*Spreadsheet)*	Computer Lab - MSP	16
4/13-15	Interpersonal Communication $2.25/person	Natl Guard Armory - Deer Lodge	24
4/19	PPCT Refresher	MWP	2
4/19	Emergency Preparedness Initial	PHYCF	8
4/20	Emergency Preparedness Initial	PHYCF	8
4/20-23	SJS - Strategies for Juvenile Supervision $15/person	Helena	32
4/21-23	Interpersonal Communication $2.25/person	Natl Guard Armory - Deer Lodge	24
4/21-23	Emergency Preparedness Initial	Dawson County Adult Correctional Facility	24
4/22	PPCT Refresher	MWP	2

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The Department of Corrections is dedicated to public safety and trust by holding adult and juvenile offenders accountable for their actions against victims through custody, supervision, treatment, work, restitution and skill development.